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Sixty-Sixth Congress, Third Session

House Document No. 1024

JOSEPH B. THOMPSON

(Late a Representative from Oklahoma)

MEMORIAL ADDRESSES

DELIVERED IN THE
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
OF THE UNITED STATES

SIXTY-SIXTH CONGRESS
SECOND SESSION

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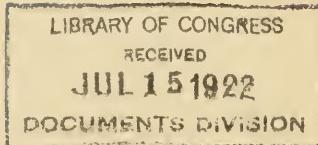
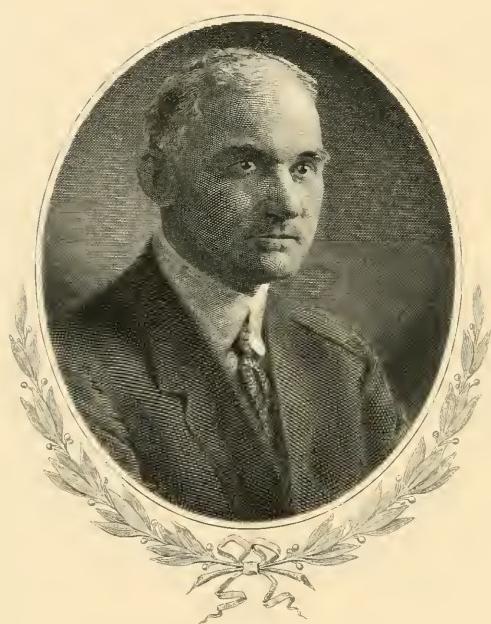


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HON. JOSEPH B. THOMPSON

DEATH OF HON. JOSEPH B. THOMPSON

PROCEEDINGS IN THE HOUSE

FRIDAY, *September 19, 1919.*

The House met at 11 o'clock a. m.

The Chaplain, Rev. Henry N. Couden, D. D., offered the following prayer:

Incline Thine ear, Father in heaven, and hear our petition. Guide these Thy servants in their deliberations, that all their enactments may be in consonance with the eternal fitness of things.

The eyes of all our people are centered upon the National Congress, that they may smooth away the rough places, bring harmony out of chaos, establish peace and justice to all classes and conditions of men, lead on to greater achievements and all that pertains to clean living, to pure government, under a Constitution which has served its purpose for a hundred and thirty-two years.

And now, O Father, comfort us who are called upon to mourn the going of a Representative who has served faithfully his State and Nation for lo, these many years. Comfort us, his stricken wife and children, by the blessed hope of the immortality of the soul, and praise be Thine through Him who died and lives to uphold and strengthen the sorrowing forever and aye. Amen.

Mr. MORGAN. Mr. Speaker, it becomes my painful duty to announce to the House the death of my colleague from Oklahoma, Hon. JOSEPH B. THOMPSON, a Representative from the fifth district of the State of Oklahoma.

MEMORIAL ADDRESSES: REPRESENTATIVE THOMPSON

Mr. THOMPSON passed away about 6 o'clock yesterday evening, while on a Baltimore & Ohio train in West Virginia on his way home.

I shall not at this time undertake to offer any appropriate eulogy, but at some future time either myself or one of my colleagues from Oklahoma will ask that a day be set aside in order that proper tributes may be rendered to the distinguished services which the deceased rendered to his State and his Nation.

Mr. Speaker, I offer the following resolution.

The SPEAKER. The gentleman from Oklahoma offers a resolution, which the Clerk will report.

The Clerk read as follows:

Resolved, That the House has heard with profound sorrow of the death of Hon. JOSEPH B. THOMPSON, a Representative from the State of Oklahoma.

Resolved, That a committee of 17 Members of the House, with such Members of the Senate as may be joined, be appointed to attend the funeral.

Resolved, That the Sergeant at Arms of the House be authorized and directed to take such steps as may be necessary for carrying out the provisions of these resolutions, and that the necessary expenses in connection therewith be paid out of the contingent fund of the House.

Resolved, That the Clerk communicate these resolutions to the Senate and transmit a copy thereof to the family of the deceased.

The resolution was agreed to, and the Speaker appointed as the committee on the part of the House Mr. Ferris, Mr. Carter, Mr. Morgan, Mr. Hastings, Mr. McClintic, Mr. McKeown, Mr. Howard, Mr. Campbell of Kansas, Mr. Jacoway, Mr. Goodwin of Arkansas, Mr. Young of North Dakota, Mr. Barkley, Mr. Sumners of Texas, Mr. Dyer, Mr. Kincheloe, Mr. Randall of California, and Mr. Vaile.

Mr. MORGAN. Mr. Speaker, I offer the following resolution.

PROCEEDINGS IN THE HOUSE

The Clerk read as follows:

Resolved, That as a further mark of respect this House do now adjourn.

The resolution was agreed to.

Accordingly (at 4 o'clock and 28 minutes p. m.) the House adjourned until Saturday, September 20, 1919, at 12 o'clock noon.

FRIDAY, April 9, 1920.

Mr. McCLENTIC. Mr. Speaker, I desire to ask unanimous consent that Sunday, April 18, 1920, beginning at 12 o'clock noon, be set aside for addresses in memory of the late JOSEPH B. THOMPSON, a Representative from the State of Oklahoma.

The SPEAKER. The gentleman from Oklahoma asks unanimous consent that Sunday, April 18, 1920, be set aside for memorial services on his late colleague, Mr. THOMPSON. Is there objection? [After a pause.] The Chair hears none.

SUNDAY, April 18, 1920.

The House met at 12 o'clock noon and was called to order by Mr. Carter as Speaker pro tempore.

The Chaplain, Rev. Henry N. Couden, D. D., offered the following prayer:

Our Father in heaven, incline Thine ear, attend our prayer. We are here on this holy day to fulfill a sacred duty. Cleanse our minds, purify our hearts, and fit us for the service.

A faithful Member of this House has fallen asleep, and we mourn his going. Wise of judgment, strong of will, with ever a laudable purpose in view, he was a servant of the people and gave his best thoughts and acts to their interests in State and Nation.

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Comfort the hearts of his many friends, his loving wife and children, with faith, hope, love, which are ever coming down from heaven into the heart of man.

He was a consistent member of the Methodist Church. His faith therefore was unbounded, his hope buoyant. His body is still, but his soul goes marching on to larger life and greater attainments.

Help us to look forward to a blessed reunion beyond the stars in Thine own good time; and everlasting praise be Thine, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. This Sabbath day has been, by special order, set apart for appropriate exercises in commemoration of the life, character, and public service of the late Hon. JOSEPH B. THOMPSON, a Member of Congress from the State of Oklahoma, and the House is now in session for that purpose. The Clerk will read the special order for the day.

The Clerk read as follows:

On motion of Mr. McClintic, by unanimous consent,

Ordered, That Sunday, April 18, 1920, be set aside for memorial services in memory of the late Hon. JOSEPH B. THOMPSON, a Representative from the State of Oklahoma.

Mr. MCCLINTIC. Mr. Speaker, I offer the following resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Oklahoma offers a resolution which the Clerk will report.

The Clerk read as follows:

House resolution 525

Resolved, That the business of the House be now suspended, that opportunity may be given for tributes to the memory of Hon. JOSEPH B. THOMPSON, late a Member of this House from the State of Oklahoma.

Resolved, That as a particular mark of respect to the memory of the deceased, and in recognition of his distinguished public

PROCEEDINGS IN THE HOUSE

career, the House at the conclusion of these exercises shall stand adjourned.

Resolved, That the Clerk communicate these resolutions to the Senate.

Resolved, That the Clerk send a copy of these resolutions to the family of the deceased.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on agreeing to the resolution.

The resolution was agreed to.

MEMORIAL ADDRESSES

ADDRESS OF MR. FERRIS, OF OKLAHOMA

Mr. SPEAKER: The late JOSEPH B. THOMPSON, of Pauls Valley, Okla., was born in Texas on April 29, 1871, and died on the 18th of September, 1919, on a Baltimore & Ohio train en route from Washington City to his home in Oklahoma.

He was a lawyer by profession, and was a practicing attorney for 28 years in Indian Territory and Oklahoma. He was a successful practitioner of the law—honest, honored, and just.

He was always a Democrat—not a Democrat in name only but in truth and in fact a Democrat, and one in all the term implies—always active in party councils, both State and National; was chairman of the Democratic State committee, delegate to the national convention, State senator, Congressman at large, district Congressman, always faithful, always capable, always devoted to duty. He was a man.

Oklahoma was admitted into the Union in November, 1907, and this is the first time the death angel has called one of our delegation to that realm from which no traveler returns. This was our first great loss; we felt it keenly then, we have felt it keenly every day since it occurred. His going was a distinct loss to the Oklahoma delegation in Congress—a distinct loss to the citizenship of the State and to the Nation.

My long acquaintance with Congressman THOMPSON makes me feel free to embrace the opportunity to bear

MEMORIAL ADDRESSES: REPRESENTATIVE THOMPSON

witness to his devotion to duty, to friendship, and to the common man.

In my service here, aggregating almost 14 years, I have seen many Congressmen come and go; I have seen four-fifths of them sworn in and retired to private life. Still, as my mind runs back over the long list of friends made and friends departed, I can not recall a single instance of a Member more devoted to the aches and pains of mankind than he. Never a vote, a bill, or a speech that was not in their interest, for their welfare, and for their advancement.

Chosen to this high calling—and it is a high calling to sit in this historic Hall as a Member of Congress in a great Republic like this one—he was never too busy to minister to the aches and pains of the humblest constituent who sought his encouragement, counsel, and advice. Others less considerate than he would allow themselves to be engrossed in the larger things and let the aches and the pains of the meek and the lowly go unattended and untouched. How refreshing it is to observe in this busy, thriving, teeming, selfish world a character who thus stands out, it seems to me, quite alone—who was always willing to care for little things and worry about the humble things, to aid and comfort the heartache, the cares, and lighten the load of the everyday man.

It was a known fact among our delegation for many months that Congressman THOMPSON needed rest—needed to absent himself from his cares and worry of the great office he, with devotion, held. Those of us who knew him best had observed his loss in weight, his deterioration of body; still he toiled on, still he labored on, in the interest of his constituents, his State, his Nation. It may well be said that he fell a sacrifice to his work, to this all-controlling desire of devotion to duty. He died in the

ADDRESS OF MR. FERRIS, OF OKLAHOMA

harness in the midday of life, enjoying a splendid career, rendering a noble service. All this makes his going the more abrupt, the more consuming.

In my long service here I have seen many of my colleagues fall from this lofty position to honored graves, but few have gone on before or will go in the future who leave behind them a longer train of friends, both in and out of Congress.

Death always comes too soon, but when we meet it face to face it seems the more unbearable, the more abrupt; and when we observe it in our friends and when they are called in the zenith of their powers it makes the problem of the human life more difficult and hard to understand.

I repeat, his death was a loss to his delegation, to his family, consisting of a brilliant, devoted wife and two sons fashioned in his very image, a loss to his State where his friends are everywhere in abundance, a loss to his Nation that to-day needs good, true men fully as much as they did in the days of yore.

The grave, whose ponderous jaws are ever open to envelop us, has enveloped our friend; still the grave is not the end; everything about us is but a solemn testimonial of a life beyond the grave, and the sweet assurance of the Book of Books, which has ministered to the sorrowing hearts of men for more than 6,000 years, gives us the sweet assurance of a better life, a fairer day, where there is no sorrow, heartaches, disappointments, and deaths.

As we view the House of Representatives from a circumscribed area—many come here—many go—but when we view it from the broader arc of the circle of a Nation but few are called to stand at the head of this Government in the Halls of Congress to serve a great, growing, thriving Nation, teeming with this great constituency who believe in free government and the liberties of mankind.

MEMORIAL ADDRESSES: REPRESENTATIVE THOMPSON

Two thousand years ago Cicero, sobbing above the dead body of his daughter, Tulia, exclaimed: "Is there no meeting place for the dead?" Well may we of this generation ask, What is to become of the seven and one-half million soldier boys who died on the threshold of life that free government and a better world might live? What is to become of these young men with genius, who in the morningtide of life gave their life that free government might live? What became of the Carpenter of Nazareth, dead at 30 years of age? There can be but one answer—there is but one answer—the Book of Books tells us, and it has never been supplanted and never will be—that there is life beyond the grave; and who is there who either in logic, truth, or reason will attempt to supplant the blessed assurance this Book affords? No; to me I prefer to believe that those who have passed through that incident of nature called death have but passed through the black waters that reach the summerland beyond—that they will be ushered into the glories of those who have gone beyond. To me they have gone to a land unstained by the smoke and din of battle, where they may write their books, invent their tools, fashion their songs, and guide the tramping, treading multitude to a better way—a fairer day in that land of perfect knowledge—in that land of love and peace. To such a destiny I would commit my friend—to such a destiny his footsteps will travel.

Mr. Speaker, while no one of right mind ever welcomes death, still its rigor loses strength as the years pass by.

ADDRESS OF MR. FERRIS, OF OKLAHOMA

In the language of the poet, and thus the poet sings—

All are scattered now and fled,
Some are married, some are dead;
And when I ask, with throbs of pain:
“Ah! when shall they all meet again,
As in the days long since gone by?”
The ancient timepiece made reply:

“Forever—never;
Never—forever.”

Never here, forever there,
Where all parting, pain, and care,
And death and time shall disappear
Forever there, but never here;
The horologue of eternity
Sayeth this incessantly:

“Forever—never;
Never—forever.”

ADDRESS OF MR. MORGAN, OF OKLAHOMA

Mr. SPEAKER: We have met to-day to conduct memorial services in honor of our departed friend and colleague, Hon. JOSEPH B. THOMPSON, late a Member of the House of Representatives from the State of Oklahoma.

Mr. THOMPSON was born in Grayson County, Tex., on the 29th day of April, 1871, and departed this life on the 18th day of September, 1919. He passed away before he had attained the age of 50 years. His life was short but it was full of honorable achievement. His death came suddenly and unexpectedly. The sad news brought deep sorrow and great regret to all who knew him. I recall very vividly the time, place, and manner in which the sad news was conveyed to me. About 9 o'clock on the evening of September 18, 1919, I was called to the telephone. It was a message from the Hon. Champ Clark, the former Speaker of the House of Representatives, informing me that he had received a telegram stating that Congressman THOMPSON, of Oklahoma, had died on the train about 6 o'clock that evening while on his way to visit his home at Pauls Valley, Okla. The unwelcome message came as a great shock to me and brought pain and sorrow to my heart.

When the House of Representatives met the following day it so happened that the other Members of the Oklahoma delegation had been called away from Washington on a matter of public interest to the State of Oklahoma and that I was the only Representative of the State present. It became my sad and painful duty to rise in the House and announce the death of my colleague, JOSEPH B. THOMPSON. I offered an appropriate resolution at that time in which the House of Representatives expressed its

ADDRESS OF MR. MORGAN, OF OKLAHOMA

profound sorrow at his death. On the same day the United States Senate passed a similar resolution. The Senate and House of Representatives appointed committees to attend the funeral. As a Member of the House committee I accompanied the remains of our departed friend to Pauls Valley, Okla. I witnessed the beautiful and impressive funeral services, at which large numbers of constituents, friends, neighbors, and relatives assembled to pay respect to their distinguished fellow citizen and Representative in Congress.

Mr. THOMPSON was elected to the Sixty-third, Sixty-fourth, Sixty-fifth, and Sixty-sixth Congresses of the United States. Prior to his election to Congress he had demonstrated his ability as a lawyer and his leadership in the public affairs of the State. He had served as a member of the State senate of Oklahoma; he had been chairman of the Democratic State committee; and he had been a delegate to three Democratic national conventions. Those of us who are familiar with the fierce conflict in the political arena know that such honors do not come to one by mere chance or accident. The high recognition which Mr. THOMPSON received from his fellow citizens in Oklahoma was the natural result of his intellectual force, his personal popularity, his integrity of character, and his laudable aspirations to be of service to his State and Nation and to accomplish in life things that were worth while.

My acquaintance with Mr. THOMPSON was very slight prior to the time he entered the Sixty-third Congress. In politics he was a stanch Democrat. I was a Republican. Whatever may have been our impressions of each other at the beginning of our association in the House of Representatives, it was not long until our personal relations became exceedingly cordial. Later we became close friends. He would often come over to the Republican side of the

MEMORIAL ADDRESSES: REPRESENTATIVE THOMPSON

House, take his seat beside me, and talk with me. In like manner I would frequently go over to the Democratic side of the House and visit with him. When important questions were to be voted upon we consulted with each other about the question involved and the proper vote to be cast.

No one would question Mr. THOMPSON's Democracy or his devotion to the principles of his party or doubt the sincerity of his belief that the supremacy of those principles would contribute to the general welfare of the country. With all this, he was independent in his character. He reached his own conclusions as to what constituted Democratic measures and always had the courage to vote as he thought was right regardless of the Democratic leadership in the House.

Mr. THOMPSON was born and reared on a farm. Within his congressional district was the largest city in the State. The large majority of his constituents were farmers. He was never unmindful of the welfare of his city constituents, but his farmer constituents were his favorites. He was always loyal to them and their industry. He sought to render agriculture the best services of which he was capable. He took a deep interest in every proposition and measure that would promote agricultural development or contribute to the prosperity of the farmers.

He possessed superior intellectual endowments. His mind grasped political questions quickly and easily. With almost unerring precision he reached correct conclusions. Once settled in his opinions, he was not easily changed. He was a conscientious legislator. He voted as he thought was right. He liked to be in harmony with his party; he respected leadership; he had due regard for the opinions of others. But he would follow no one in a course which to his mind ran counter to the good of his constituents or the welfare of his country. He had courage in a high degree. He was fearless in defending what he deemed right.

ADDRESS OF MR. MORGAN, OF OKLAHOMA

He was honest, sincere, and upright. He was kind and generous in his disposition, cordial and companionable in his relations with others, and his life was full of good works and unselfish deeds. He was called from the conflict of this life in the prime of manhood. Measured by the years he lived, his life was short. But a man's life is not measured by the number of years he lives. The true measure of a man's life is what he has done. Measured by this standard, his was not a short life. He rose from a comparatively humble position in life to prominence in the legal profession, to a position of great influence in politics in his State, and for more than six years rendered highly useful and eminently honorable service in the greatest legislative body in the world.

He was not a man of narrow views. Primarily he thought first of his own home, his neighbors, and friends to whom he felt most deeply indebted. In passing upon a legislative proposition he thought first about how it would affect the people of his own congressional district who had commissioned him to come to the National Capital and participate in directing the affairs of the greatest Nation on the earth. But he was broad enough to recognize that in part he was legislating for more than a hundred million people. He loved devoutly his home people, he was deeply attached to the State of Oklahoma and all her citizens, but with all this he was intensely patriotic and supremely loyal to the Nation. In the enactment of war legislation he did his part well. The record of his votes will show that the honor of our country was safe in his hands. He believed in protecting the rights of American citizens at all hazards. Regardless of how his votes might affect his political future, he voted for every measure that would facilitate the vigorous prosecution of the war, that would aid in its successful and victorious conclusion, or that would contribute to the safety and welfare of the

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brave and heroic soldiers, seamen, and marines who constituted the American Army and Navy in the war with Germany.

So closed the life book of JOSEPH B. THOMPSON. In this life volume is revealed the coming and the passing away of the hard-working farmer boy, the diligent student in college, the successful lawyer, the influential politician, the skillful legislator, and the eminent statesman.

We cherish and honor his memory. We deeply regret his untimely passing away, and we gladly pay this tribute of praise to our departed friend, colleague, and fellow citizen.

ADDRESS OF MR. MCKINLEY, OF ILLINOIS

Mr. SPEAKER: We are met here this beautiful spring morning to pay respect to the memory of our friend, JOSEPH B. THOMPSON. I want to say just one word or two of appreciation.

My acquaintance with Mr. THOMPSON was in connection with the Committee on Agriculture. I found him to be a courteous, generous friend, an agreeable companion, a conscientious Congressman, a hard-working legislator, who knew before he came to the committee meetings about the various matters that were to come up. He would treat with courtesy a Member who differed with him. On the other hand, if he thought he was right he would fully maintain his position. If he was convinced that he was wrong, he would concur with the majority in what they decided upon.

In the death of Mr. THOMPSON the Congress of the United States has lost a hard-working, conscientious Congressman and the country a good, upright citizen.

ADDRESS OF MR. CLARK, OF MISSOURI

Mr. SPEAKER: Of the many things I have done in my 26 years of service in the House there are many upon which I look back with pride and pleasure. One of these is that for years I did my utmost to bestow the boon of statehood upon Oklahoma. Two of the most pleasant weeks of my life were spent in that beautiful land, hunting and fishing. I drove over a large part of it in a spring wagon and "viewed the landscape o'er" with ever-increasing delight. Anybody could tell that it would some day be a great agricultural State, but the chances are that in that faraway day even the most imaginative and enthusiastic of boomers never dreamed what a rich and mighty Commonwealth she would become within two decades, with fair prospects of becoming one of the greatest and wealthiest States of the Union. Neither Jules Verne nor any other novelist ever wrote a tale so fetching as the history of Oklahoma.

Her population is composed of the very cream of the peoples of the older States—the young, the vigorous, the adventurous, the daring.

From the beginning she has sent a strong delegation to the councils of the Nation, where they have taken high rank. Most of them have been and are young men in the very prime of life. No man past middle life has yet represented her in House or Senate. She has been very fortunate in the fact that until now death has never broken into her delegation.

Everybody at all acquainted with JOSEPH B. THOMPSON sincerely mourned his departure. He was my friend, true as steel, faithful as the needle to the pole. In fact, he was absolutely true in all the multiplied relations of life. He

ADDRESS OF MR. CLARK, OF MISSOURI

was a fine Representative, honest, industrious, honorable, level-headed, positive and kind, firm in his convictions, and unafraid.

To discharge his duty faithfully and well was his one idea in public life. This he did courageously and intelligently.

His death came suddenly and to most of us unexpectedly. He sleeps in his home city of Pauls Valley, one of the loveliest spots on earth, among the people who loved him so well and whom he served so faithfully. In his death Oklahoma and the Nation lost one of the most dependable of all American public men.

ADDRESS OF MR. HOWARD, OF OKLAHOMA

Mr. SPEAKER: We are gathered together to-day to pay tribute to the memory of a departed friend. This tribute is prompted by our affectionate regard for him as representative of the people and as our friend.

In the death of JOSEPH B. THOMPSON Oklahoma lost a close friend and patriot who had done much for its upbuilding, and the National Government lost a Representative in the House of Congress whose courageous stand at all times for right and progress was of great benefit to this Nation.

JOSEPH B. THOMPSON was a commanding figure among the leaders in the construction and upbuilding of the State of Oklahoma. It was a great accomplishment to have been of real service, such as he was, to his State and his Nation. It was a great accomplishment to have won, as he did, the confidence and love of all those who knew him and his work.

Mr. THOMPSON was one of the most indefatigable Members of this body in looking after the interests of his constituents, whether those interests took the form of legislation or of some detail requiring attention at the departments. It was this indefatigable industry in all matters large and small, his rugged integrity, his power of speech, his devotion to the interests of his constituents, his high ideals, and his upright life that explain his remarkable hold upon his constituents. No district ever had a more faithful Representative in Congress or one serving them

ADDRESS OF MR. HOWARD, OF OKLAHOMA

with an eye more single to their interests. He was a valued friend, a kindly neighbor, a delightful host, a dutiful and affectionate son, a true and faithful husband, and a generous and loving father. He truly met all of the near and tender relations of life, and I mourn his loss, feeling that Oklahoma and all who were bound to him by the tie that binds are poorer by his death.

ADDRESS OF MR. TILLMAN, OF ARKANSAS

Mr. SPEAKER: It is an old custom of the House and one much honored in the observance to devote one day in commemoration of the life and services of the men who die while serving in this body. This good day has been set apart for the purpose of paying tribute to our departed friend and former colleague, Hon. JOSEPH B. THOMPSON, of Oklahoma. His associates called him by his given name when addressing him, and in this way testified to the tender regard in which he was held.

His family and mine lived at the same hotel and occupied rooms in the same apartment house for considerable periods. Our offices were not far separated and on the same floor. Together we visited the Allied fronts in the spring of 1918, each of us having a son at that time with the combat troops in France. We were, therefore, closely associated during all of my service here, and I came to know him and the members of his devoted family intimately and well.

Mr. THOMPSON was born in Texas and spent the greater part of his life in the virile young State of Oklahoma. He was brought up in a school where the sterner virtues are cultivated, where the fittest survive, and where men of high purpose and strong character alone are selected to lead.

He was a man of infinite courage, aggressive, courteous, possessed of a vigorous personality, willing and ready at all times to lend to the unfortunate and to the lowly his loyal help and friendship. He therefore counted among his followers the large majority of the big-hearted plain people. The unpretentious, the great middle class, among his constituents, whose support can not be purchased by money, proclaimed him their idol and their champion. He was the stalwart friend of the farmer and the man

ADDRESS OF MR. TILLMAN, OF ARKANSAS

who labors with his hands, and he was their generous advocate at all times. He literally lived up to the philosophy of Jefferson, who taught the equality of all men. Indeed and in truth, the meek and the lowly and the helpless were first in his thoughts, and he regarded them with more favor than he did men of wealth and prominence. He mingled with his constituents freely and was never so happy as he was when going from place to place in his district greeting his friends with the spirit of genuine friendship which characterized his intercourse with his people. He never forgot the fact that he came from the plain people; he never ceased to love them and they never lost their faithful love for him. He seemed always especially eager to be doing something for the soldier, for the soldier's family, and devoted a great deal of his time writing, phoning, and visiting the various departments in their interests.

Mr. THOMPSON was a man of indomitable energy. Few Members devoted more hours to the dull drudgery of congressional life. His capacity for hard mental and physical labor was phenomenal. This accounts in a large measure for his rapid rise to a position of influence. Drudgery is the gray angel of success, and our friend was a distinct success as a citizen and as a public official. His splendid State has upon the floor of this House a strong delegation, but he was the peer of any of his colleagues in point of ability, in popularity, and in influence.

He was not a noisy Member, yet he discussed with vigor and rare intelligence many of the big questions that engaged the attention of the House during his membership therein. He never indulged in frivolous nonsense and his speeches abounded in forceful argument, devoid of driveling. He yielded a keen blade in debate and always had a respectful hearing when he engaged in discussion on this floor.

In the days that are passing swiftly as the swallows fly the membership of this House is ever changing. Month after month our hearts are made heavy by the death of

MEMORIAL ADDRESSES: REPRESENTATIVE THOMPSON

colleague after colleague. During the last few years a large number of our associates have answered the last call. Our friend died suddenly while on the train, accompanied by his son, as they were speeding westward toward the land he loved. A sudden death is rather to be desired. How much better it is for the grim warrior who conquers all men to hurl his sable spear full at the heart and strike down his victim at high noon when he is surrounded by his fellows than to sap his strength by slow degrees while he lies bedridden within the four walls of a dreary sick room.

I am sure that all is well with our departed friend. It makes us sad, of course, when we think of this loss to his district, to his friends, and especially to his excellent family; but sooner or later we must all enter the land of shadows, and yet we believe as he did that the soul is immortal and will live forever. We have missed and will continue to miss his genial companionship, but one by one, year by year, we shall follow him.

Life's shores are shifting
Every year.
And we are seaward drifting
Every year.
Old places, changing, fret us,
The living more forget us,
There are fewer to regret us
Every year.
But the truer life grows nigher
Every year.
Earth's hold on us grows slighter,
And the heavy burdens lighter,
And the dawn immortal brighter
Every year.

ADDRESS OF MR. YOUNG, OF TEXAS

Mr. SPEAKER: Mr. THOMPSON was a native of my State, born and reared in Grayson County, one of the splendid counties of the State of Texas, whose population, in intelligence and in good citizenship, is equal to that of any county that I know. In his earlier youth Mr. THOMPSON had his struggles. He had to fight his battles in order to educate himself. That education was attained in our common schools and our institutions of higher learning in the great State of Texas.

In his early manhood Mr. THOMPSON saw fit to cast his lot with the people of the State of Oklahoma, and he began as a leader in that State, and had the respect and esteem of the entire citizenship of that Commonwealth, because it was recognized that his leadership was wise.

My intimate acquaintance with him began after he came to Congress. We both served on the Committee on Agriculture. His birthplace and my birthplace were not far removed, and when I met him and knew him personally, as I did in service on that great committee, I could see from day to day, in his counsel and advice on pending legislation, that his earlier training had impressed itself upon him, that he knew the problems which confronted the great agricultural masses of our Nation, and that he was responding to those problems in aiding to write legislation that might serve the people who produce to feed the world.

The loss of such a man from this body is not alone a loss to the body itself but it is a loss to the people of the Nation. When the Representative of a constituency is a man born and living among the people whose problems he has known from childhood, that type of man knows how to become a real Representative. He is a part of the people

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whom the Good Book describes as the great common people. And when a man of that type is sent here, breathing the same air, thinking the same thoughts, having the same experiences, his acts are an aid to the great citizenship that he represents.

I recall one incident in our service on the Committee on Agriculture when we had under consideration some of the war legislation. As all of us know, we had some difficult legislation, the one supreme thought being so to mobilize our people and all the power and resources they had that we could win the war. But in passing these various war statutes there was no precedent to guide us. Many times we had to leap in the dark. Probably one of the most far-reaching pieces of legislation that this Congress passed was what was known as the food-control law.

In the bill as originally drafted its far-reaching powers extended to every farm in the land. One of those powers was that of fixing prices on agricultural products. As the bill was then drafted it was a general power giving authority to those appointed by the President of the United States to exercise that power at discretion. I remember very distinctly the discussion of that important proposition, in which my friend JOE THOMPSON participated. It was an amendment offered by him that saved the situation. That amendment was adopted by the committee to this effect: That if this power to fix prices on agricultural products were to be exercised it must be done "seasonably and in advance of seeding time." It was a remarkable amendment, a far-reaching amendment, and back of it lay the fact that if you were going to take the products of the great agricultural people by some agency of the Government, exercising an extraordinary war power to fix the price of the product of their toil, that fairness to the people, the producers, demanded that the President of the Nation should by proclamation state in advance of

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seeding time that the price would be fixed and that the product and price should be named before crops were planted. Mr. THOMPSON was the author of that amendment. It became a part of the law. It helped to save a bad situation. The fact that he had been reared on a farm, had received the hard knocks that go with the labor on the farm, enabled him to understand the situation, and so that provision was written into the war law.

He had a great heart. His heart responded to the people. He knew their troubles and faithfully represented their views. He was a wise leader, a devoted husband, a patriotic father, giving to the service his son, who went to the front. He was kind to his friends and loved by everybody who knew him. His going is only too soon. His family, his State, and the country have suffered an irreparable loss. Peace to his ashes.

ADDRESS OF MR. MCCLINTIC, OF OKLAHOMA

Mr. SPEAKER: In the death of our distinguished citizen, friend, and colleague, the late Hon. JOSEPH B. THOMPSON, of Oklahoma, the Nation has lost one of its most patriotic citizens, the State of Oklahoma one of its hardest workers, the fifth congressional district a loyal Representative, the Democratic Party one of its most devoted supporters, and the wife and family a loving husband and father whose greatest pleasure in life was looking after their every comfort.

His death came as a sudden flash of lightning out of a clear sky. No one ever dreamed that the grim reaper of death was soon to mow him down. It is rather a strange coincident, as my distinguished colleague, Mr. Morgan, has called attention to, that most of the Members of the Oklahoma delegation were away, out on the ocean speeding for Norfolk, Va., for the purpose of delivering a silver service set to that great battleship which bears the name of *Oklahoma*. Mr. THOMPSON's death cast a sad gloom over that party.

Congressman THOMPSON, like myself, was born in Texas. In his early days he suffered some privations, but he was possessed of a sufficient amount of determination and energy to keep striving for an education, and he never stopped until he was successful in being admitted to practice his chosen profession—that of the law. Everywhere he lived his honesty, his uprightness, and fair dealing with his fellow man caused him to be loved and to be respected by all who knew him.

Congressman THOMPSON was a Democrat. He held a high position in the estimation of all of those who affiliated with his party. On many occasions he was hon-

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ored by being selected to high positions of trust. On two occasions he was sent as a delegate to the national convention. Twice he was selected as chairman of the Democratic Party of Oklahoma. In 1910 he was elected as a member of the Oklahoma State Senate. It was during this period that the citizenship of the new State was confronted with many intricate questions to solve. The section of the State formerly known as Indian Territory was originally governed by the Territory laws, the rules and regulations of the Five Civilized Tribes, and the laws of the United States Government for the protection of the Indians. Likewise, in that part of the State formerly known as the Oklahoma Territory the Government maintained certain supervision over the Indian tribes residing in same. It was necessary for the early sessions of the legislature to iron out the many wrinkles and put into effect legislation that would be acceptable to all of the people.

Congressman THOMPSON, being a State senator at the time, played a most conspicuous part in performing this work in a satisfactory manner. He was a member of the famous extraordinary session called for the purpose of ratifying the act of the governor when the capital of the State was moved from Guthrie to Oklahoma City between suns. He was a member of the extraordinary session of the senate that was called for the purpose of ironing out the difficulties that existed among the members of the educational board having jurisdiction over the various educational institutions of the State. He was selected as chairman of the committee on senatorial, representative, and judicial redistricting. It was my privilege to be elected chairman of the corresponding committee in the house. While serving in this capacity I first became intimately acquainted with him. In all of the joint sessions held by these committees he always conducted himself

in such a way as to merit the confidence and respect of all present. Under his leadership the bill dividing the State into senatorial and judicial districts was passed. He probably introduced more bills than any other member of that body. It was during this service that I learned to admire him, and it is a great pleasure to say that the friendship formed at that time continued until his death.

Oklahoma was admitted as a State a little over 12 years ago. Our late distinguished colleague is the first Representative from our State to go to his grave. In the House of Representatives he was loved and respected by everyone. He was a member of the great Agricultural Committee, which has jurisdiction over all matters pertaining to the farm. He believed that in the consideration of every question the interest of the farmers should be properly considered, and it can be truly said that the agricultural class had in him a loyal and stanch friend.

In addition to the thousands of friends who mourn his loss, he left a loving wife and two splendid, manly young sons. I think it is appropriate for me to say that when this country went to war, and it was necessary that we join the Allies in opposing the great military tyrant who sought to conquer the world, that his only son of age laid aside his domestic pursuits and volunteered for service. He was willing to make the supreme sacrifice in order that our posterity might forever be free. The hand of fate was kind in dealing with the destiny of that son. He was spared to be returned to take up the responsibilities of his father, and it is my hope he will continue the humanitarian work that was so interesting to our late distinguished colleague and that he will meet with success in all of his undertakings.

Congressman THOMPSON was faithful to every trust imposed in him. He was never too busy but that he could find time to help a friend. No State ever had a

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more loyal Representative than he. He was universally loved and respected by all of his associates, and his loss has not only been keenly felt by the Nation but by the thousands of his home people whom he loved so well. Such a record as his should be an inspiration to everyone; and while we all regret he has had to be taken away so soon, yet I am pleased that I can stand here to-day and concur in all that has been said by the Members of the Oklahoma delegation and my other distinguished colleagues who have testified as to their high regard for him.

ADDRESS OF MR. HASTINGS, OF OKLAHOMA

Mr. SPEAKER: To-day has been set apart to pay a tribute of respect to the memory of our late Representative and colleague, JOSEPH B. THOMPSON. I want to briefly participate in these exercises to the extent of bringing a wreath to lay upon his memory and to say a word about him.

He was a resident of Pauls Valley, Garvin County, Okla. He came to Oklahoma from the State of Texas many years ago. He was always active in local, State, and national affairs. When interest was being aroused in the movement for statehood he was an earnest advocate of it. It was at these meetings, where organizations were perfected in the Indian Territory and the Territory of Oklahoma asking for statehood, that I first met him. He was always a central figure in them. A forceful speaker and a ready debater, he took an active part in the politics of our State during Territorial days and after the two Territories were admitted into the Union as one State.

He was a strong believer in the principles of the party to which he belonged and there was no better organizer in the State. He contributed much time to the support of his party and his views were always given expression in its interest. He had an extensive acquaintance through the State, where he was known and loved by all men. He was immensely popular.

He served his senatorial district in the State legislature and was elected to the Sixty-third Congress as a Representative at large and was afterwards reelected from the fifth congressional district to the Sixty-fourth, Sixty-fifth, and Sixty-sixth Congresses. No man had a more extensive acquaintance in the State than our lamented

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friend. He died suddenly on September 18, 1919, while on his way from Washington to Oklahoma. The news of his death was a great shock not only to the members of the delegation but to innumerable friends and admirers in the State.

Upon entering Congress he devoted himself diligently to the service of the people of his district and State. I doubt if any man in Congress was in more intimate touch with the voters. He was prompt in answering every letter received and had the reputation of looking after details for his constituents who had matters pending in the various departments. He was an active champion of the rights of the plain people of the country. Without regard to party, they loved and trusted him. He grew up under adverse circumstances and never got out of touch with men and women that fortune had not favored.

He served on the Committee on Agriculture and was delighted with the work of the committee. He was intensely interested in farming and made the needs of farmers a special study. He was perhaps as well posted on subjects pertaining to the needs of the farmer as any other man in the House. He seldom made speeches on the floor of the House, but when he spoke it was with a knowledge of his subject and with great eloquence.

He left a wife and two sons to mourn his loss, but their sorrow is lightened in a large measure by the fact that their grief is shared by thousands of friends and admirers throughout the State he served so faithfully and loved so well. He was a splendid public servant, a loyal friend, a devoted husband and father, and, above all, an honest man.

The people of his district and State miss him and mourn his loss. It is fitting that these exercises should be held in the House to-day, in order that his services may be

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recounted and his friends given an opportunity to say a word of regret at his early passing, as well as drop a tear upon a grave that was made only too soon.

Were a star quenched on high—
For ages would its light,
Still traveling downward from the sky
Shine on our mortal sight.
So when a great man dies,
For years beyond our ken,
The light he leaves behind him lies
Upon the paths of men.

ADDRESS OF MR. TINCER, OF KANSAS

Mr. SPEAKER: On behalf of the entire delegation of the neighboring State of Kansas, I desire to join with other neighbors and friends in the sentiment that in the death of the Hon. JOSEPH B. THOMPSON the State and Nation lost an energetic, honest, valuable lawmaker and statesman.

ADDRESS OF MR. McKEOWN, OF OKLAHOMA

Mr. SPEAKER: It was in the early spring of 1901 that I first met JOSEPH B. THOMPSON. It was on the occasion of an important murder trial in the United States court then sitting at Pauls Valley. It was amid one of the scenes that is familiar to every man who attended a session of the United States court in those days in the Indian Territory. My admiration was won by the vigorous and courageous manner he exhibited as one of the trial lawyers in the case. Our acquaintance soon ripened into friendship which grew stronger as the years went by.

Until the arrival of statehood we met frequently at the session of court in the old southern district. After the admission of the State into the Union he was selected as chairman of the State Democratic committee, and in this position he led the party with great distinction and success, and his opinion was always given great weight in the councils of his party. Afterwards he was elected to the State senate, where his influence was felt in the enactment of many wholesome laws. Before the expiration of his term as State senator he was elected to Congress at large from the State of Oklahoma, and upon the redistricting of the State he was elected as Congressman from the fifth district. His broad experience in the affairs of men, together with his ability, immediately attracted the favorable attention of his colleagues in the House of Representatives. He had the courage of his convictions and was always ready to fight for the rights of the American people. He aspired to a place on the great Agricultural Committee of the House and his aspirations were rewarded in the Sixty-fifth Congress. He served on this committee during the War Congress, and no man in Congress ever worked

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more earnestly for the farmers of the country than JOSEPH B. THOMPSON.

He came to Congress at a trying period of the country's history and performed his part well in the enactment of the constructive legislation which marks the epoch as one of the most important in the history of the Republic. On account of his wide experience and universal sympathy for others he was enabled to understand the minds and hearts of the people and foretell the effect of legislation upon their welfare.

He was always modest and unassuming in character; he was an ardent Democrat and at times intensely partisan, but never tainted with bitterness. The intense-ness of his convictions convinced him that his country's wel-fare depended upon the success of his party. He believed in the rights of the masses of the people and was always a foe to special privilege. Honor, sympathy, and duty were conspicuous traits of his character and were among the chief agencies in the development of his splendid manhood. His unusual capacity for winning the affec-tion of men was due to his deep human sympathy, and "JOE," as he was familiarly called by his friends, was a suc-cessful man, and his success was not achieved by birth, rank, or fortune, but through his irresistible energy and patient plodding. He was a true American, an ideal cit-i-zen in his domestic life, and by his devotion to his home and family won the deep respect of all of his acquaint-ances. I would fail to pay him proper tribute if I did not call attention to those traits of his character exhibited by him as a loving husband, devoted father, and faithful friend. He was all of these, and his devotion to his family and friends was like flowers blossoming along his path-way through life.

While active and busy he was stricken suddenly in the prime of life and left us to sorrow over his demise. We

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will miss his cordial greeting, his hearty handshake, and his earnest solicitation of our welfare. His bark slipped its mooring and without a signal of his going he passed over the bar. He has answered the summons we all must obey. We will linger, some for a few days, others for years, but let us hope that our crafts, like his, reach the haven where weary ships may rest.

We carried him back to sunny Oklahoma to the scenes of his early activities. At the capital city, where his body lay in state, we witnessed the homage paid his memory by his sorrowing constituents; the poor as well as the rich came and stood side by side to drop a tear upon his bier. At Pauls Valley, his home city, his neighbors and friends turned out by the thousands to pay their last tribute to their foremost citizen. In Pauls Valley we laid him to rest in God's acre, and returned with heavy hearts sighing:

Oh, for a touch of a vanished hand
And for the sound of a voice that is still.

ADDRESS OF MR. HARRELD, OF OKLAHOMA

Mr. SPEAKER: When I located in the Indian Territory, which is now a part of the great State of Oklahoma, 15 years ago, JOE THOMPSON, as he was familiarly called, was already prominent in politics and eminent in the profession of the law. He was, upon the advent of statehood, made chairman of his party committee for the new State and had much to do with the shaping of its laws and political tendencies. For a while he contented himself with being the power behind the throne; then he asked to come to Congress as a Member at large from that State. He was elected by the people of the State as a whole, and had continuously served in this body thereafter as the Member from the fifth district until his untimely death in 1919. I became well acquainted with him soon after I located at Ardmore, 40 miles from his home at Pauls Valley.

We were personal friends from that time to the time of his death. During a part of that time I presided over the bankruptcy court for a large district in southern Oklahoma as referee in bankruptcy, and THOMPSON, being a lawyer of large and varied practice, often had business of importance in the bankruptcy court. This and the fact that we often met at the bar of the other courts gave me a favorable opportunity to know him both personally and professionally. He was a man of true friendships! His loyalty to his friends knew no bounds. As a lawyer he was not only able but possessed those traits which made him a dangerous adversary before judge or jury; at the same time his strict adherence to the ethics of the profession and his uniform courtesy to opposing counsel and opposing litigants never failed to keep for him the respect

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and good will of both. That was largely the reason he was so invincible in the political field. His Chesterfieldian courtesy served him well in the field of political endeavor.

Of his record in Congress others here present who served with him are better prepared to speak, and I will leave that for them. This I know, that while making my canvass to succeed him last fall I found that he had served in this body to the satisfaction of his constituency. He had established for himself among his constituency a reputation for constructive ability and faithful service, and that reputation was not alone established in the hearts and minds of those of his own party but it was shared in large part by those of opposite political faith. That is undeniably shown by the fact that, notwithstanding Payne County, one of the counties in his district, invariably elects as its county officials the Republican candidates by majorities ranging from 300 to 900, yet THOMPSON never failed to carry it as the Democratic nominee for Congress by from 300 to 700 majority over his Republican opponent.

After all, the measure of a public man's success is not to be determined by what this man or that says nor by the one act or the other performed by him during his career, but it is to be measured by the impression he makes upon the general public and by his record taken as a whole, and, judged by these standards, I do not hesitate to say that JOE THOMPSON's record as a public servant was one of which his family and constituency may well be proud—one which makes it hard for his successor or successors to duplicate and one which will ever cause him to be remembered gratefully by those whom he so well served in the Halls of Congress.

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Mr. MCCLINTIC. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have leave to extend their remarks in the Record upon the life and character of our late colleague.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection?

There was no objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the order heretofore adopted, the House will now stand adjourned.

Accordingly (at 1 o'clock and 15 minutes p. m.) the House adjourned until to-morrow, Monday, April 19, 1920, at 12 o'clock noon.

PROCEEDINGS IN THE SENATE

FRIDAY, *September 19, 1919.*

A message from the House of Representatives, by D. K. Hempstead, its enrolling clerk, communicated to the Senate the intelligence of the death of Hon. JOSEPH B. THOMPSON, late a Representative from the State of Oklahoma, and transmitted resolutions of the House thereon.

Mr. SHEPPARD. Mr. President, I ask that the resolutions just received from the House of Representatives be laid before the Senate.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Chair lays before the Senate resolutions from the House of Representatives, which will be read.

The Secretary read the resolutions, as follows:

Resolved, That the House has heard with profound sorrow of the death of Hon. JOSEPH B. THOMPSON, a Representative from the State of Oklahoma.

Resolved, That a committee of 17 Members of the House, with such Members of the Senate as may be joined, be appointed to attend the funeral.

Resolved, That the Sergeant at Arms of the House be authorized and directed to take such steps as may be necessary for carrying out the provisions of these resolutions, and that the necessary expenses in connection therewith be paid out of the contingent fund of the House.

Resolved, That the Clerk communicate these resolutions to the Senate and transmit a copy thereof to the family of the deceased.

Resolved, That as a further mark of respect this House do now adjourn.

Mr. SHEPPARD. Mr. President, in the absence of the Senators from Oklahoma, and at their request, it becomes my painful duty to announce the death of Hon. JOSEPH B.

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THOMPSON, late a Representative from the State of Oklahoma, yesterday afternoon on a train en route from this city.

He was a native of Texas, and in his adopted State, the State of Oklahoma, rose to the highest positions of trust and honor. At a future time an hour will be designated for eulogies on his life and character. For the present I offer the resolutions which I send to the desk.

The resolutions (S. Res. 187) were read, considered by unanimous consent, and unanimously agreed to, as follows:

Resolved, That the Senate has heard with deep sensibility the announcement of the death of Hon. JOSEPH B. THOMPSON, late a Representative from the State of Oklahoma.

Resolved, That a committee of 10 Senators be appointed by the Vice President to join a committee appointed on the part of the House of Representatives to take order for superintending the funeral of the deceased.

Resolved, That the Secretary communicate a copy of these resolutions to the House of Representatives.

Resolved, That as a further mark of respect to the memory of the deceased Representative the Senate do now adjourn.

Under the second resolution the President pro tempore appointed Mr. Owen, Mr. Gore, Mr. Curtis, Mr. Sheppard, Mr. Fernald, Mr. Ashurst, Mr. Spencer, Mr. Myers, Mr. Phipps, and Mr. Jones of New Mexico as the committee on the part of the Senate.

Mr. SHEPPARD. Mr. President, as a further mark of respect to the memory of the deceased Representative, I move that the Senate do now adjourn.

The motion was unanimously agreed to; and (at 4 o'clock and 55 minutes p. m.) the Senate adjourned until Monday, September 22, 1919, at 12 o'clock meridian.



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